

B1 Sub C1
-- 1. (Twice Amended) A method for inhibiting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* and toxic shock syndrome toxin-1 in liquids in contact with infants, said method comprising the step of:
diapering the infant with a dry diaper comprising a surface layer incorporating an effective amount of an antimicrobial compound selected from the group consisting of tetrahydroiso-alpha acids, hexahydro-beta acids, and mixtures thereof. --

B2
-- 4. (Twice Amended) A dry diaper comprising a surface layer incorporating an antimicrobial compound selected from the group consisting of tetrahydroiso-alpha acids, hexahydro-beta acids, and mixtures thereof, said antimicrobial compound being effective against toxic shock syndrome. --

REMARKS

In Items 1-2 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as the basis for the terms "dry" and "dry to the touch" in the amended claims was uncertain. These terms have a basis at page 10, lines 1-6 of the specification as originally filed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In Items 3-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,313,178 by itself or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,183,763. The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 and have cancelled claims 6 and 7 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention. Specifically, claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite the diaper as